

來訪記 文車館

冬目景

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講談社



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FUGURUMA MEMORIES

fuguruma-kan raihōshi

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Note: The literal translation of the Japanese title is "Records of the Vases Made in Fuguruma Studio." "Fuguruma" was a special type of wood used that was used in ancient Japan to drive port boats, and/or a mobile bookcase (in form of a rolled cover) if you will. Mobile shelves used to store important books and documents in libraries are also called this way.

CHAPTER 1 THE PHANTOM TOWN





[[If character's name is outside image (below), the first word's right is the name and follows is the position code (like "from right to left")]]



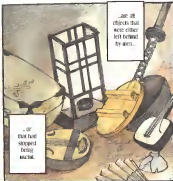
It is the story of an object. According to Chinese legends, those rare spirits on evil spirits who had been killed with incense, and the spirit had remained in the time there to protect from their physical bodies. In the future era, incense were considered the physical form of their and desires.



Now call them "mosses".

(1)

HELLO,
DAN



...are all objects that were either left behind by men...

...or that had stopped being useful.



It seems that those things have been abandoned since the Heian era.

(2)

(1)
Heian era
(794-1185)



(2)
Fuguken

(3)
Fuguken
The main
Fuguken
is located in
the city of
Fuguken.



10:05



[Aika]



[Aika
Aika]



(Jedi)



The studio is anything but a busy place.



This man is my present owner, 'Nob.

He is the only person being living in this town.

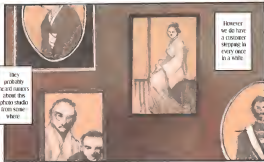
His main occupation is the photo studio. In addition, he also seems to be active as an author.

WELL, COME, THANK YOU.



They probably heard rumors about this photo studio from somewhere.

However, we do have a customer stepping in every once in a while.





COULD YOU
TAKE A PHOTO
FOR ME,
PLEASE?





IAN, IS IT A CUSTOMER?



AS OF TODAY,
I'M A RESIDENT
OF THIS TOWN.



YOU'RE A
MISCOMER?

OH...



... YOU'RE
HUMAN.

DO YOU
KNOW WHO
WHAT I AM?

MY NAME IS
ACTUALLY
YOU CAN CALL
ME WHATEVER
YOU PLEASE

I JUST LIENED
ABOUT THIS PHOTO
STUDIO FROM THIS
TOWN'S PEOPLE



I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M A BIT LIKE THE RESIDENTS IN THIS TOWN MYSELF



DO YOU WANT A PHOTO OF YOUR HOMETOWN?

OBVIOUSLY YOU CAME FROM ACROSS THE SEA



YOU'RE SPECIAL, YOU KNOW



I WANT A PHOTO OF A CERTAIN HUMAN

20 YEARS AGO...

NO...



All she had were the ribbons on her back...

...and was a breeder of her hair mother

She and I crossed the sea together with a Japanese soldier
(1)



She seemed
to be happy.

She went on
to arrange all
those beautiful
flowers that
she picked up
from the field.



...and kept
crying
every day.

However,
she stopped
singing of
sorrow soon...

She sang
songs of her
husband.



Then came the
day when we
were separated.

WHAT A
SPLENDID
EXEMPLAR!

UHM, THIS
IS A BEP-
FIGURED (H)
MING VASE
FROM THE
JINGING (H)
SEA.

It is the
Loving
Vase, a
vase that
was
used to
hold
the ashes
of the
deceased.

It is the
Loving
Vase, a
vase that
was
used to
hold
the ashes
of the
deceased.



She looked sad
when she left.



AFTERNOON,
I WAS SOLD
FROM PERSON
TO PERSON.

BEFORE I
NOTICED IT, I
HAD BECOME A
COSPLAY COL-
LECTORS' ITEM.



Nobody
noticed
there was
anyone.



In order
to see her
again...



...I deliberately
lost myself



I...
I MISSED
THAT
WOMAN

I WANTED HER
TO ARRANGE
FIELD FLOWERS
IN ME AGAIN. I
WANTED HER TO
SING SONGS OF
HER HOMETOWN
AGAIN.



AS FAR AS I
WAS CON-
CERNED, SHE
WAS MY ONLY
TRUE OWNER.



There I finally
saw her.



She was all



Good tears
wellled up in her
eyes and she
stared at me for
a long time.

Flowers that
was the last
time I saw her.



MY VALUE
AS AN ART
OBJECT
DROPPED...

AND I
ENDED UP
IN THE
TOWN'S
ANTIQUES
STORE
AGAIN.





WE'LL
TAKE A
PHOTO...

OF YOUR
MEMORIES
WITH HER.



...VERY
WELL.



[Flashback]



WHEN YOU
SHONE THE
BRIGHTEST

A PHOTO
OF THE
BLISSFUL
TIME...





MISS
MIO...

GOOD
AFTERNOON



[49]



[50]





I'M SURE IT
WON'T BE
EASY, BUT
I'M GOING TO
GIVE IT A TRY
ON MY OWN

SOMEONE INTRO-
DUCED ME TO THAT
SCHOOL. I WAS
TOLD THAT THEY
ARE RUNNING SHORT
OF TEACHERS
OVER THERE...



ON
YOUR
OWN?



WHAT DO YOU
KNOW... THIS
ROLL HAS BLUE
EYES? THAT'S
NOT VERY
COMMON



Oh!

IS IT A
STUDIO
PROPS?

THAT'S A
CUTE BIG
ROLL YOU
HAVE.



SAY,
YOMI...

I USED TO
HAVE ONE
AT HOME
MYSELF, AN
ICUMU-
SEN...

HEHE,
IT'S CUTE...

DON'T YOU
EVER WANT
TO GO BACK
TO YOUR
FAMILY?



AFTER
ALL, I
HAS OUT
OF...

I
DON'T...



EVEN THOUGH I
DON'T GET HIGH
THROUGH IT, I CAN
AT LEAST DEVOTE
MYSELF TO WHAT I
WANTED TO DO
MOST, WRITING.

BESIDES, I
LIKE MY LIFE
AS IT IS

(1) "YOMI" is a traditional Japanese name for a small, round, dark-colored seed or fruit, often used in traditional Japanese cuisine. The girl's name, "YOMI," is a common name for a small, round, dark-colored seed or fruit, often used in traditional Japanese cuisine. The girl's name, "YOMI," is a common name for a small, round, dark-colored seed or fruit, often used in traditional Japanese cuisine.



MY FATHER IS TOO CONCERNED WITH WORK TO CARE FOR ANYTHING ELSE.

MY YOUNGER BROTHER WILL DO A FINE JOB LEAVING THE COMPANY IN HIS STEAD.



BUT IN THE MEANTIME I'VE BECOME UNABLE TO TELL WHICH OF THOSE TWO ACTIVITIES MY MAIN OCCUPATION IS.

PHOTOGRAPHY MIGHT'VE BEEN A HOBBY OF MINE...



I THINK YOUR FATHER'S ALSO WORRYING ABOUT YOU.



I MIGHT COME OFF AS CALIPH AND NAIVE...

BUT I BECAME CONVINCED THAT I COULDN'T PERDUTE MY LIFE TO A COMPANY WHICH OWED ITS SUCCESS TO THE WAR...



THAT WAS
MY BIGGEST
WORRY, YOU
KNOW...

IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU ARE LIKE
MY OWN
BROTHER



I'M
RELIEVED

YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
MUCH,
YOH



SINCE
YOU'RE
ALREADY
HERE, HOW
ABOUT I
TAKE A
THIRD OF
YOU?

AS A
MEMENTO



NOW I CAN
LEAVE TOKYO
WITH MY HEART
AT REST



PLEASE
FORWARD
IT TO ME IF
YOU CAN



RIGHT...

AS A
MEMENTO
OF TODAY...





to their "barbers" style (sakurita dog) (reference to their "barbers" traditional Japanese cutters) (sakurita) (are usually made of bamboo and dipper)
 The boy below is the owner of such a weapon!
 (2) A character is looking at a person for his traditional shop and make dog.





ONE
BOX
LEFT







I THINK OLD
OBJECTS
HAVE THEIR
OWN MERITS



LIFE ISN'T AS
SAP FOR US
OBJECTS.

HE BOUGHT
HE NOT
EVEN THREE
MORNING
AND SO
FIGURE!

AS SOON AS
HE BECOME A
BIT OLDER,
WE'RE AUTO-
MATICALLY
WORTHLESS



BUT AN
UMBRELLA
IS, AFTER
ALL, JUST
AN EXTREMELY
COMMON ITEM

YEAH, THAT
MIGHT HOLD
TRUE FOR
ANTIQUE
POTTERY AND
THE LIKE...



WITH NEW THINGS
BEING PRODUCED
ALL THE TIME,
EVERYBODY WANTS
TO HAVE SOME-
THING THAT IS NEW

IT'S TRUE
NOWADAYS, IT'S
MUCH LESS
COMMON FOR
PEOPLE TO USE
ONE AND THE
SAME OBJECT
WITH CARE OVER
A LONG TIME





EXCUSE
ME

It's
one
day



YOU MUST
BE THE
MAN WHO
RECENTLY
CAME TO
BRING ME
BACK MY
UMBRELLA.

MY OLD
NEIGHBOR
TOLD ME
ABOUT IT
WHEN HE MET
SOME OTHER
IN TOWN.







I went
out into
town.



so that Yan
can focus on
meeting his
deadline.

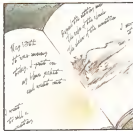
the photo
studio is
closed
today.



1-1 is a book (1st Secondary School) Bookstore









the cranes
stop halfway
through



OH, THAT'S
SOMEONE'S
OLD MARY.

NOBODY
WANTS TO
BUY IT
THOUGH

IT'S
BEEN
LYING
AROUND
HERE FOR
AGES



A STORY
WITHOUT AN
ENDING MIGHT
AS WELL NOT
EXIST AT ALL.



I'VE BEEN
WAITING HERE
FOR MY DAD
FOR A LONG
TIME.

IF HE
DON'T
COMES
HE ENTERED,
I CANNOT GO
ANYWHERE.



HE WENT
OUT TO WORK
AND HADN'T
COMED BACK
ONCE..

BUT NO
MATTER
HOW LONG
I'VE WAITED
FOR HIM
...

HE JUST
HASN'T
RETURNED
TO ME.



YOU ARE,
BUT SO A
PAINTER.

WELL I
HAVE COME—
VENDOR.

I'M
SURE
HE'LL
COME
BACK.

WE LEFT A
RED MARK—
PAINTING
PAINTING
BRAND.



THAT'S
WHY
I...

I AND THOSE
PAINTING, OUR
CREATION WOULD
BE ARRANGED
IF WE STAYED
UNPUNISHED.



THIS BOOK
STOPS
HELPFUL
THROUGH.

I'M GLAD
THAT I
ENCOUR-
AGED IT.

STAY
THOUGH



Library

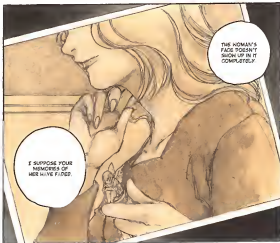


CHAPTER 5 END

CHAPTER 6 THE MISSING MEMORY



THIS IS A
PHOTO OF
YOUR PAST
IT WAS TAKEN
BY IAN



THE WOMAN'S
FACE DOESN'T
SMILE UP IN IT
COMPLETELY

I SUPPOSE YOUR
MEMORIES OF
HER HAVE FADED.



YOU WERE THE
STOPPER ON
THAT PERFUME
BOTTLER, RIGHT?



THE WINGS
ON MY BACK
WERE ALSO
GONE

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH TIME
HAS PASSED

WHEN I CAME
TO, I FOUND
MYSELF IN THE
FRAME OF AN
ANTIQUE STORE

YES... WHAT
COULD'VE
HAPPENED
TO ME?



THAT THE
FRAMES WAS
NOT WHERE I
SHOULD HAVE
AWOKEN

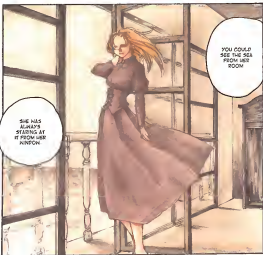
W-WHY
FEELINGS
TELL ME...



YOU CAN'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING EVEN
WHEN YOU LOOK
AT THIS PICTURE



SHE HAD
BEAUTIFUL
BLOND HAIR



YOU COULD
SEE THE SEA
FROM HER
ROOM

SHE WAS
ALWAYS
STANDING AT
IT FROM HER
KITCHEN



I WAS
ALWAYS IN
HER HANDS
WHEN SHE
WENT OUT



RIGHT

THAT
DAY

ON THAT
DAY

THAT DAY
TOO

BOARDED
A SHIP

SHE AND
I





SHE WAS ON
THE WAY BACK
TO HER HOME
COUNTRY

THE TWO OF
US TOOK A
SLIP FROM
THIS BRIDGE

I REMEMBER
NOW TEN
YEARS AGO...



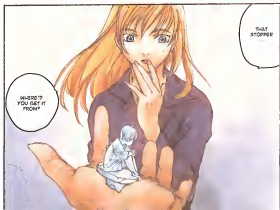
— I LEAVE
A WISH

PLEASE
RING
ME

INTO THESE
WATERS
ONCE AGAIN









I FOUND IT IN
THE DRADES
OF AN ANTIQUE
STORE



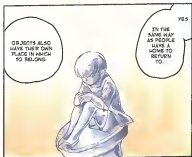
UNFORTUNATELY,
SHE DIED IN AN
ACCIDENT TEN
YEARS AGO.

MY
MOTHER
HAD THE
SAME
ONE



ARE
YOU SURE?

IN THAT
CASE, I'LL
GIVE THIS
TO YOU.



OBJECTS ALSO
HAVE THEIR OWN
PLACE IN WHICH
TO BELONG

IN THE
SAME WAY AS
PEOPLE
HAVE A
HOME TO
RETURN TO.

YES



TODAY,
I'M
LEAVING

FOR MY
MOTHER'S
HOME
COUNTRY.





YOU ARE
A DOLL,
AREN'T
YOU?



WHAT I
WANT IS A
NORMAL
PHOTO-
GRAPH

OH... BUT
NOT BY
YOU

I'LL
ASK THE
STUDIO'S
OWNER TO
DO IT



YES.

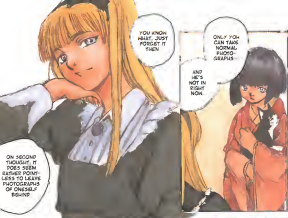
BUT SOON
I'LL BE
REMODELLED
TO BECOME A
DIFFERENT
DOLL.



THAT'S ALSO THE
REASON WHY I
WANTED TO HAVE A
PHOTO OF IT AS A
SOUVENIR. ISN'T
THIS BLOND GIRL
BEAUTIFUL?

WHICH IS
A NAME
BECAUSE I
ACTUALLY
LOVE MY
CURRENT
NAME

—2





© Leila, a. Kuroda / © Shogakukan and Shogakukan Inc. (Leila)







WE WERE
ORIGINALLY
MADE TO HEAL
THE WOUNDS
IN PEOPLE'S
HEARTS

THIS MAN IS
OUR CREATOR,
OUR MASTER

CAN YOU
STILL NOT
REMEMBER?

FOR
INSTANCE,
THE EXACT
COPY OF
SOMEONE'S
DEAREST
DAUGHTER

HE CAN BE
REMODELED
TO TAKE ANY
SHAPE UPON
REQUEST

I'M A LIFELIKE
DOLL MADE IN
BYOUSSOU IN
THE 18TH YEAR
OF MEIJI

BUT...
I...

IT WAS YOUR
GRANDFA-
THER WHO
BOUGHT ME



It is worth to know it is primarily hidden for the sake
southern Tokyo/Los and the many local manga stores

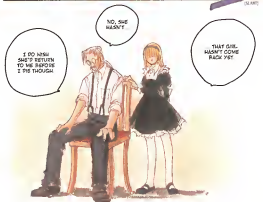


THOSE BLUE
EYES ARE
THE BEST
FEED.

YOU'RE NO
ORDINARY
LIFELINE
FOOL, JAN.



(MMP)



I DO NEED
SHEEP RETURN
TO ME BEFORE
I DIE THOUGH

NO, SHE
WASN'T

THAT GIRL
WASN'T COME
BACK YET







Our function is to heal the wounds in people's hearts.



They cannot exist without memories.



What curious creatures they are.

Only human beings like to look back at the past and lose themselves in sentimentality.



IF WHAT SHE SAID IS TRUE...

THEN I HAD MADE TO HEAL THE WOUNDS IN YOUR GRANDFATHER'S HEART?





THE INK'S
OUT.



I SHOULD
HAVE SOME
DETAIL INK
LEFT



WHAT
COULD IT
BE FOR?

A KEY?



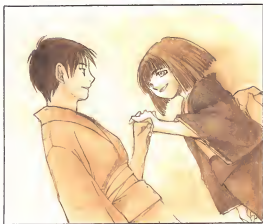
your blue
eyes are
beautiful.

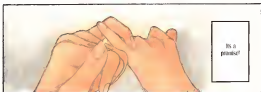


Yes...









Is a
promise?



Yes...

are the
get from
that the
marriage
right?



Why
not?

Yes, but every-
body there
hates me.



I'm sad, it's
because
of my blue
eyes.

I don't know. Ever
since my mother's
death, I've had to
live in a back shed
all by myself...



These
eyes are
beautiful.



She
also said
I inherited
these eyes
from him.



My mother told me
that my father came
here on a ship from
across the ocean.



Will you
come play
with me
again?

Sure.
Let's
meet
four
again.



Four
promise?



I
promise.



My name
is Ren.
(x)

Ren Aoi

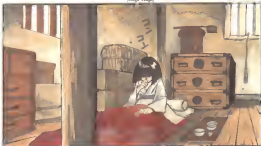
It's Ren Aoi, the names of her father's grandfather, and the girl who both girls in Long characters, probably as different from Ren Aoi and the doll has a name both of which can appear to be a name.



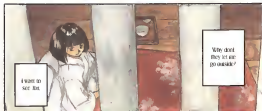


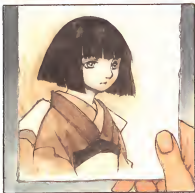
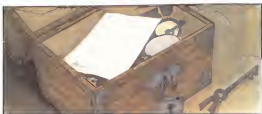


[cough cough]

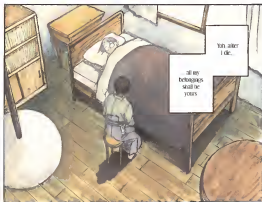


[cough cough]





1870-





There's no need...

...for you to be tied down to this family too late.



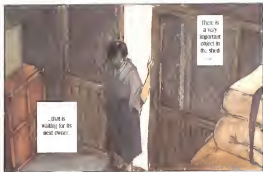
You should find a few valuable things in there.

Take them and leave this house. It starts what you want.



This is the key to our shed.

Open it before the other family members dispose of its contents.



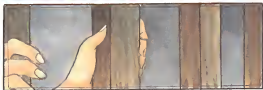
There is a very important object in the shed.

...that is waiting for its next owner...

BL

my saddest
memory one that
I could forget.









His
small
hand



That was the
last time I
touched his
hand



SEVEN YEARS
LATER, YOUR
GRANDFATHER
HAD ME MADE
BY A DOLL-
MAKER

I...
DIED A CRUEL
DEATH IN
THAT SHOP.

I'D ONLY
TURNED 19
YEARS OLD.

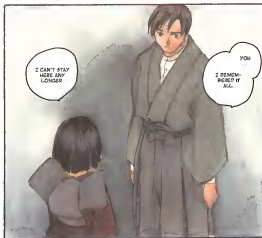




WE DO IT SO
THAT HE COULD
ENTRUST ME TO
YOUR CARE

ALL MY
MEMORIES
UP TO THE
PRESENT

HERE
GIVEN
TO ME
BY HIM



I CAN'T STAY
HERE ANY
LONGER

YON

I REMEM-
BERED IT
ALL.





YOU MUST
KNOW THAT
HE DOLLS
DON'T
REMEMBER
OUR
PREVIOUS
OWNERS.

I FORGOT
ABOUT
YOUR
GRAND-
FATHER,
ABOUT YOU.



YOU HAVE
NEVER SAID
ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT
BEFORE. WHY
THIS SUDDEN
DECISION?

HOLD
ON.



TO THE DOLL
MAKER WHO
MADE ME.

THEN I
SHALL BE
BORN
AGAIN AS A
DIFFERENT
DOLL.



AREN'T
YOU MY
DOLL,
NOW?

WHAT IS THIS
FUNCTION
YOU WERE
TELLING
ABOUT?



IT'S NOT AS IF
THAT YOU
TRULY NEED
RIGHT NOW.

I HAS HERE
TO HEAL THE
WOUNDS IN
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS.

BUT
YOU.



DOLLS
USUALLY
DON'T HAVE
THESE KIND OF
THOUGHTS...

THIS MUST BE
AN EFFECT OF
MY LIVING IN
THIS TOWN



I WANT TO
STAY WITH
YOU LIKE THIS
FOREVER, I
REALLY DO.
BUT I'M
A DOLL.

NO
MATTER
WHAT
PEOPLE
SAY, I'LL
ALWAYS
BE JUST
A DOLL.

I CAN
NEVER
BECOME
A HUMAN
BEING.





YOU,
YOU

SHOULDN'T
BE HERE,
YOU.



UNTIL
THEN,
WE'LL BE
WAITING
FOR YOU



I CAN'T
IMAGINE THAT
STAYING HERE
AND RUNNING
THE PHOTO
STUDIO...

YOU, YOUR
LIFE IS NOT
FINISHED
YET...

IS WHAT YOU
REALLY WANT
TO DO

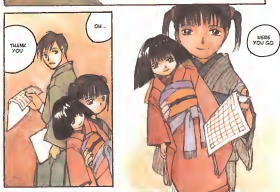


WHAT?





(1) The districts with "downtown" feel of Tokyo consist of the traditional shopping districts such as Ginza, Nishi-Shinjuku, Akihabara, Kojima, Nishi-Shinjuku and Ikebukuro.











* AFTERWORD *

Although this work was already published in May 2000 as part of an illustration collection named *Hyakkei* ("100 famous views") I am delighted to see it being republished in form of this book.

As the story was being serialized in a magazine at the time, I had a real hard time complying with the deadlines.

I don't think I could do something like that again. Ever!

Even though it is impossible for me to create another full-color work,

I do have the wish to draw some kind of continuation one of these

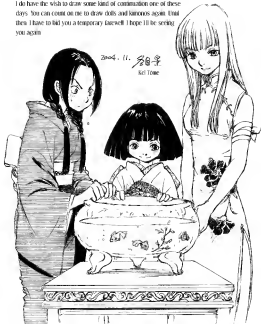
days. You can count on me to draw dolls and kimonos again. Until

then, I have to bid you a temporary farewell. I hope I'll be seeing

you again.

2004. 11. 鈴目 零

Kell Tōme





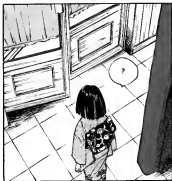


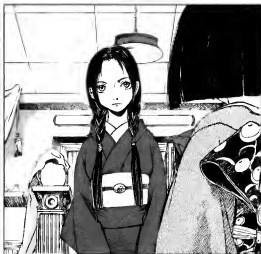
Staying with him
is a little girl
with blue eyes.



Her name
is Iku.

























I HATED AND
HATED AND
HATED... BUT
HE WOULDN'T
COME BACK



AFTER HE HAS
SUDDENLY GONE,
I WAS WAITING
FOR HIM



BEFORE I
FINALLY
REALIZED THAT
THAT MAN
WOULDN'T
COME BACK
ANYMORE

AN ETERNITY
WENT BY...

YET I KEPT
ON WAITING



THAT'S WHY I'M
GOING TO MAKE
MYSELF FORGET
EVERYTHING, EVEN
THE FACT THAT I
WAS ONCE KEPT
BY A HUMAN

I HAVE NO
DESIRE TO KEEP
ON BOILING WITH
THESE FEELINGS
OF BITTERNESS.



BUT, ALAS,
I COULDN'T
JUST DIE.

I HAD
BECOME A
GHOST IN
THE FORM
OF A CAT





SACCH!
SACCH!



YONE!



YAKON

...now
a free-
leader of
Fugenuma
Studio.

I am
Yone

